



Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, MA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (BCRLF) programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years), to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

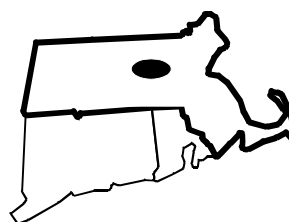
The Montachusett Region is a politically recognized subdivision of the State of Massachusetts and is composed of 22 member communities located in the center of the State. The Region is plagued by pockets of poverty with high unemployment and low per capita income. Much of the area is composed of urbanized mill towns, remnants of once-booming paper and furniture industries, where plant closings have created high rates of unemployment. Between 1989 and 1998, the region lost 192 firms and 1,116 jobs. In some places, job loss rates were as high as 39%.

The Montachusett Region Planning Commission (MRPC) has identified 782 brownfields sites, and prioritized 28 for redevelopment. The EPA Brownfields Site Assessment program has facilitated nine Phase I site assessments. MRPC also plans to undertake five more Phase I site assessments and two Phase II assessments.

BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Montachusett Region is to provide gap financing for cleanup of brownfields sites. In doing so, the Region hopes to: (1) expand local economic capacity through the reuse of non- or under-productive

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Montachusett Region, Massachusetts

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$500,000

BCRLF Target Area:
Urban and industrialized communities and municipalities with abandoned and underutilized "mill sites"

Contacts:

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MRPC
(978) 343-0646

Region 1 Brownfields
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(617) 918-1210

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

brownfields sites; (2) expand job availability, affordable housing, and recreation opportunities for residents; and (3) expand the Region's economic tax base. Implicit is the desire to protect the environment and improve the quality of life for the Region's residents.

Potential borrowers include the Town of Athol. The Town may utilize the BCRLF to clean up a vacant manufacturing lot located next to the Town Hall and Public Library. The cleanup would allow for expansion of the library and a municipal parking lot. Other potential recipients include the City of Gardner, for the cleanup of two sites – one for the construction of a new library and another for an affordable housing development; and the Town of Groton to clean up the West Groton Mill.

FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The MRPC is the cooperative agreement recipient, and will serve as the lead agency and fund manager. The MRPC will engage the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to serve as site manager.

LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

The region will submit an application to HUD for Community Development Block Grants for the removal of unsafe structures on brownfields sites. It will also utilize the Massachusetts Brownfields Act, and the State Economic Development Incentives Program (EDIP) to offer potential developers funding and tax cuts. Environmental insurance resources are also available to cap potential cost overruns.

Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.
